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Journal of the Society of Arts.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1857.

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES.

Persons who intend to offer themselves as Candidates at the Society's Examinations in June next, in London and at Huddersfield, are desired to take notice that no one will be admitted to the Examinations who shall not have sent in his "Return paper" to the Secretary of the Society of Arts, before Monday, the 20th of April next.

Forms of the "Return paper" may be had on application to the Secretary of the Society of Arts.

EXHIBITION OF INVENTIONS.

The Society's Ninth Annual Exhibition of Inventions was opened on Monday, the 23rd ult. The Exhibition will be open every day till the 23rd of May, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is free to the members and their friends. Members, by tickets or by written order bearing their signature, may admit any number of friends.

NOTICE TO INSTITUTIONS.

James Patrick Muirhead, Esq., F.R.S.E., has presented to the Society of Arts, for distribution amongst the Institutions in Union, 27 copies of "Correspondence of the late James Watt, on his Discovery of the Theory of the Composition of Water," and 186 copies of "The Historical Eloge of James Watt," by M. Arago.

Those Institutions which desire to have copies of these works, are requested to make early application to the Secretary of the Society of Arts.

SPEECHES AND ADDRESSES OF H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT, PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

At the annual dinner of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, in the Crystal Palace, on the 24th of June, 1856, Lord Ashburton, Vice President of the Society, in his address from the chair, observed:—"To induce the tired mechanic to study during his hours of rest, he must have some inducement beyond that of acquiring knowledge for its own sake; he must be paid for it in wages or in consideration, and that inducement he cannot hope for from ignorant employers. Prince Albert has felt this difficulty; a difficulty not within the compass of this Society to remove: and he has brought up succour to us from other quarters. He assigned to science and high art its due place in the hierarchy of society; he has encouraged our scientific and artistic institutions, but above all he has adopted that course which among Englishmen is of most avail,—he has attended our public meetings, and has in his own person appealed to us to reform ourselves. These appeals at the time produced their effect, and would continue to work upon the public mind, if this Society would in its own interest, and in the interest of the cause it espouses, print and circulate Prince Albert's addresses for our use."

At a meeting of the Council of the Society of Arts, held on the 23rd of July, 1856, the foregoing suggestion was taken into consideration, when the following minute was passed:—

"That Lord Ashburton's suggestion, to collect and publish the addresses, speeches, and letters of H.R.H. the President of the Society, having been considered, it was resolved:—That a collection be published, not at the risk of the Society, but by subscription among the members, the Institutions in Union, and the public at large, as being the best means of showing the public sense of the efforts made by his Royal Highness to promote social progress and the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, the chartered objects of the Society.

"That two editions of the collection be published under the sanction of the Society, the one a cheap edition for wide distribution, and the other a library edition.

"That members and others wishing to become subscribers be requested to transmit to the Secretary a statement of the number of copies they subscribe for, with the amount of their subscriptions."

It is proposed to publish the Library Edition at half-a-guinea, and the cheap edition at threepence each, or one pound per hundred.

Subscriptions to promote the above object will be received by the Secretary.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES.

The following letter, addressed to the editor of the *Journal*, has been received from a member of the Board of Examiners:—

Sir,—As the time of holding the Society's Examinations is now drawing near, and as many, indeed I may say most, of the candidates know but little of the manner in which Examinations are conducted, whether at the Universities, by the Civil Service Examiners, or elsewhere, it may not be out of place if I use the columns of the Society's Journal, to give a few words of friendly advice to those young men who propose to present themselves for examination before the Society's examiners in the beginning of June. My remarks will be very plain, intended as they chiefly are for those who do not clearly know what an examination is, or how they should conduct themselves with respect to it.

In the first place it will be found that candidates, especially those who have had but little judicious guidance, are only too ready to take up several subjects at once. They think it creditable to them to be able to compete in so many things at the same time. This is a great error. A candidate who confines his attention to one or even two subjects, is almost sure to obtain a higher certificate, than he who spreads his attention over many; but, what is of far more importance, his thoughts being concentrated on one point at a time, he acquires clearer notions of the primary principles of the subject he is striving to acquire than if he were to direct his attention to several at once. It is as true of mental as of mechanical effort; to produce an effect at all, a certain time is necessary. The mind must be saturated with a subject, before it can be said to make it its own. Again, in an examination, a candidate must not only know the subject, he must have it well in hand besides; it will be of no avail to him to know where he could find the information he is in want of, if he had a library to refer to. He must not only have the knowledge, but be able to make it available, and recover it if he should have lost it.

As several of the subjects of examination are valuable not only in themselves, but also as mental exercises—mathematics, for example, it is obvious that if they are not followed to some considerable extent, they will fail to come up to the latter requirement, however they may satisfy the former. For instance, to store up in the memory the results which may be found in a book on Mensuration, will supply information useful so long as it remains distinct and clear—but no longer; while as an exercise of the understanding it will be of little or no value. Loose and inaccurate information on any subject is never worth much, and it is sometimes positively injurious. The true principle is to take up one subject, to work it, to leaven the whole understanding with it, and then to go on to another.

There is another great error into which candidates not unfrequently fall, and which savours somewhat of dishonesty. I mean the practice of giving evasive answers, of dodging the question, if I may be allowed to use a vulgar but expressive word, of fencing with the examiner, and striving to mask special ignorance or loose information under vague generalities. The honest, and indeed the safe course for a candidate to follow, when he cannot answer a question, is to pass it by; a guess may reveal a depth of ignorance of which otherwise the examiner would have had no conception.

Again, many persons, through nervousness and timid apprehension, imagine that it must be a very difficult matter to answer an examiner's questions. Now, to one acquainted with the subject under examination, the difficulty is not so great, after all. Questions, which at the first glance appear to be very difficult, gradually open out to a little patient thought. Besides, I know that it is the determination of the examiners generally not to set riddles or conundrums in any of the subjects, but to give those fair and direct questions which test knowledge rather than ingenuity—which prove whether an examinee has mastered the principles of the subject, or whether his acquaintance with it is loose, superficial, and popular, such as a man might acquire by attentively listening to another talking about it. Those candidates who propose to come to the Society's Examinations next June, well read and carefully prepared in the subjects they mean to bring up, will not only receive the reward due to their industry and talents, but they will be the means of inducing and urging many others to go and do likewise.

I am, &c.,

A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

EXAMINATIONS.

The following correspondence has taken place upon this subject:—

To the Secretary of the Society of Arts.

Sir,—I find it necessary to make an appeal to you in reference to the proceedings and the results of the preliminary Examination, held at ________________ on ________________ the ________ of ____________ After becoming connected with the Society of Arts, I dedecided to send in two youths as competitors, one for Mathematics and History, and the other for French and German, being, of course, guided by your printed regulations as sent to me. The two youths consequently attended the Examinations at ________________ and one of them was plucked for the reason assigned in the enclosed letter of the Rev. ____________

Now, the printed paper sent me did not mention arithmetic for the preliminary Examination; therefore, as the youth referred to intended to go in finally for modern languages, his attention had been exclusively directed to those subjects, with English composition and commercial correspondence.

In consequence of the altered plan, I considered the youth was placed in a false position, especially as we were guided by the printed regulations sent me. It was, therefore, no fault of ours, and as the youth would be sure to distinguish himself, I hope he will be allowed to present himself for Examination at Huddersfield. As to his arithmetic, I will guarantee his being efficient in that department before June. You will, therefore, oblige me by bringing this case before the Board of Examiners in London.—I am, Sir, yours most respectfully.

———.

(Reply.)

Sir,—Your letter of the 3rd inst. has been carefully considered, and I am directed to state in reply to you that the Council cannot interfere with the discretion of the Local Board, which they must assume to have been judiciously and properly exercised.

Independently of this, I would observe that one of the principal objects the Society of Arts had in view in establishing a general system of periodical examination for those who attend classes at Mechanics' Institutions, and for such of the middle classes as desire to avail themselves of the advantages they offer, was to secure, if possible, that a greater amount of attention should be given, as well by teachers as by pupils, to the common and indispensable elements of a sound education, however restricted in extent it might happen to be. Surely every lad on leaving school ought to be able to write a fair hand, to spell correctly, to revise simple mistakes in English composition, and to work easy sums in the common rules of arithmetic. That a great many youths at the present day are grossly deficient in these, the very first rudiments of education, they have the large and varied experience of the Civil Service Examiners to confirm their own observation. They do not believe that any proficiency, however great, in modern languages, could compensate a lad for his ignorance of these elementary principles, on which all sound education must be based.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. LE NEVE FOSTER,

Secretary.

Society of Arts, Adelphi, W.C., April 8th, 1857.

To——

LOCAL BOARDS OF EXAMINERS.

A Local Board of Examiners, to conduct the preliminary examinations required by the Society of Arts previous to the general examinations in June, has been appointed by the Bradford Mechanics' Institution for that district.

The members of the Board are—

Rev. S. G. Green, B.A.
Rev. D. Frazer, M.A.
Rev. H. B. Creak, M.A.
Mr. William Clough.
Mr. C. Lund.
Rev. W. R. Smith, M.A.
Mr. Alfred Harris, Jun.

Home Correspondence.

◆

THE ECONOMY OF FOOD.

Sir,—I have read with great pleasure the interesting and instructive paper delivered by Dr. Letheby to the Society of Arts on the economy of food. That paper contains information which may be turned to good account in every domestic establishment, which may be made beneficially available by those whose duty it is to provision our fleets and armies, and which deserves the serious consideration of the superintendents and inspectors of hospitals, gaols, and poor-houses. Dr. Letheby mentions the different articles of diet which form the staple food in different countries, and he says, "everywhere the pulses and leguminous seeds are cultivated for their rich nitrogenous qualities." In Yucatan, and throughout the whole of Central America, black beans form a large portion of the daily food of the inhabitants, particularly the Indians. These beans, which are called *frijoles*, are, when uncooked, about the size and colour of parched coffee berries. They are boiled and eaten with pepper and salt, and are served up at breakfast, dinner, and supper. Some of the natives almost live upon them, and they are to them as necessary an article of food as maccaroni is to the lazzaroni of Naples. I had the pleasure of being first introduced to this dish about ten years ago, whilst spending a fortnight at Omoa. When it was placed upon the table it did not present a very attractive appearance, and my first impression was that it was some villanous preparation of blood, extracted from a foul street-feeding porker, or not impossibly from the veins of an Indian. Having been assured that it was vegetable, and not animal diet, and, moreover, that it was wholesome and good for food, I ventured to taste it, and found it far from being unpalatable. Like many things, and persons too, at first exciting our antipathy, it improved upon acquaintance, and I ceased in a short time to wonder that the natives should not only be passionately attached to it, but that they should get fat upon it. It is extremely unctuous, and is, I have no doubt, very rich nitrogenous food. There is another favourite article of food amongst the Indians of Yucatan. It is a small thin cake, about the size of a saucer, made of the meal of the maize, or Indian corn, and called a *tortilla*. This, when roasted, somewhat resembles the oatcake of Scotland. For a glass of anniseed and a toasted tortilla, an Indian would go through fire and water. He certainly would not hesitate to commit a crime. Not a very long time ago an Indian, on the very lowest grade of humanity, was convicted of murder. The victim was his wife. They were seen standing together at the door of their hut, apparently engaged in quiet converse. Suddenly the man was observed to seize a knife, and, as quick as lightning, to plunge it into her heart. She fell upon a log, quivered for an instant, like a reed when shaken by the wind, and expired. The wretched criminal looked at the corpse with perfect unconcern, and when arrested, which he was immediately, walked cheerfully away as if he was going to his breakfast. Never did I behold such a picture of degraded humanity as this poor creature presented. No beam of intelligence in his face, no speculation in his eye, no working of the facial muscles betokening emotion of the slightest kind. A long face, a lofty but rather crooked narrow forehead, high cheek bones, a thin delicate nose, compressed at the nostrils, a small mouth, a retreating chin, and a complexion dun-coloured and cadaverous. In short he had all the physical indications of an idiot. But he was not an idiot, and he had not mind enough to be mad. He was simply a human being without the slightest mental cultivation. A laborious attempt was made during the time he was in gaol, to instil into his mind some knowledge of Christianity, and to impress him with the sense of his awful situation. Father Avaro, a member of the order of Jesus, a zealous, pious, and benevolent man, attended him day and night, and thought that he had made him understand and feel, what was needful for his salvation. On the morning before his execution, a few minutes before he was led out, he told the priest, in as solemn a manner as he could, that he had one last request to make to him. This occasioned no little surprise; the good man's eye moistened, and his countenance was irradiated with hope; could it be possible—had the light of Heaven come upon this wretched creature's benighted mind now at the last moment; had intelligence beamed upon his intellect, now when the soul was beating, as it were, against the bars of its cage, and was about to be released; and would he, could he, embrace the cross and be saved? Such things had happened; his church's annals were full of miracles as great and greater. What was his request,—assuredly, said the kind Jesuit, it should be complied with, if not inconsistent with his duty. What was this last solemn request? "Please to get me a toasted tortilla?" A toasted tortilla was got for him; he was led to the scaffold eating it; and he was hanged with an unmasticated piece sticking out of his mouth.

There is a dish which used to be generally used in the West Indies, but I believe, it is now almost confined to British Guiana. It is called Pepperpot. It is a sort of *omnium gatherum*, a kind of *olla podrida*. Pepperpot is compounded in this wise: a large earthenware vessel is procured, and into it is placed the relics of the breakfast, the luncheon, and the dinner, from day to day and from year to year, with the addition of a small quantity of cazarife, or cazareep, and a liberal allowance of fresh red peppers. Whatever is left after a meal, legs and wings of chickens, drum-sticks of ducks, backbones of turkies, bits of fish, ham, beef, mutton,

> "Eye of newt, and toe of frog,
> Wool of bat, and tongue of dog;
> Adder's fork, and blind worm's sting,
> Lizard's leg, and owlet's wing;"

all, all, are cast, with reckless indifference, into this witches' cauldron, and warmed up together. The conditions of a true pepperpot are these principally:—First. The vessel must be put upon the fire and stirred up every day. Second. It must never be emptied and washed out. That would break the charm. Third. A small portion of cazarife, to give the compound a homogeneous flavour, must be added every day. Cazarife is a preparation of the juice of the cassava root, and is slightly poisonous, but that is of no consequence. There are families in British Guiana to whom pepper pots have descended from time immemorial, and which, from the period they commenced their savoury career have never been polluted by being brought into contact with napkin, or water. Were some of the jars examined, it is not impossible that some northern rhyme in Runic characters, or pithy apopthegm, in Mexican hieroglyphics might be discovered. I have had the courage to taste this celebrated dish, and although I have heard it spoken of in the highest terms, I should respectfully decline to give it my vote and interest.

Dr. Bankroft, in his "Essay on the Natural History of Guiana," published in 1769, speaking of the Indian cookery, says: "Their usual method of cooking all animal food is by boiling it, either with water, or the juice of the poison Cassava, to which they add such a quantity of red pepper, as would instantly excoriate the mouth of a person unaccustomed to its use, but it is indispensably necessary in this climate to corroborate the solids and promote digestion, which would otherwise be imperfect; though it is a general but mistaken opinion, that the copious use of spices is detrimental to the inhabitants of hot climates, whereas nothing is more productive of health, and we find that nature has not only produced them more particularly in these climates, but taught the inhabitants their use; and not only the Indians of America between the tropics, but the inhabitants of Africa and the East, all season their food with a great quantity of spices, particularly pepper, a practice in which they are likewise imitated in a greater or less degree by all the Europeans who have resided in those countries long enough to acquire the knowledge of its use. By this practice the Indians wholly preserve themselves from those intermitting fevers which are endemial to the other inhabitants of Guiana, who do not imitate them therein. But though the Indians live in the excessive use of pepper, they are never afflicted with the gout, notwithstanding the humidity of the air renders it particularly troublesome to those of the white inhabitants who have transported it from Europe, and I think that spices ought to be no longer enumerated among the predisposing causes of that disorder."

Dr. Bankroft gives an interesting account of the Cassava, and the mode in which it is prepared. He says, "The cassava shrub is about four feet in height, knotted, and covered with an ash-coloured bark. Within it is pithy. Near the top it divides into several short, small green branches; from these arise reddish foot-stalks, about six inches in length, supporting large digitated leaves. The root is white, soft, and farinaceous, of a cylindrical form, nearly a foot in length, and five or six inches in circumference. This root is grated, on large copper graters, into coarse meal, from which its juice is separated by expression. This meal is then put on large plates of iron, placed over a slow fire, and formed into circular cakes of different magnitude, and from one to four lines in thickness; on these plates it is baked, until the surface becomes brown, and it will then keep sweet and wholesome for many months. But, notwithstanding this is the usual bread everywhere on this coast, yet every part of the root from which it is made is a steady and fatal poison, of the cold kind, causing, when internally taken, violent spasms, a tumefaction of the abdomen, and a speedy cessation of all the vital functions. The aqueous part is expressed, not because it is more poisonous than the farinaceous substance, but to facilitate the baking. By the inattention of the slaves, this juice when expressed, is frequently drank by the sheep, hogs, and poultry, on the plantations, and ever proves fatal to them. Yet the animals thus poisoned are always eaten by the inhabitants. This poison, fatal as it is in its crude state, is rendered perfectly innocent and wholesome by fire. Thus the bread by baking, is rendered innoxious and nutritious; and the poisonous juice of the root, when expressed, is by the Indians and white inhabitants boiled with venison, pepper, &c., and thus affords an agreeable and salubrious soup."

The best cassava cakes are made in Jamaica. They are about the size of a cheese plate, and very thin. When steeped in oil, sprinkled with cayenne, and lightly broiled on the gridiron, they are delicious. Dressed in this manner, they form an excellent accompaniment to wine.

An inebriating drink is also made from the cassava, by the Indians. It is called *piworree*. The cassava bread is steeped in water until fermentation commences, to promote which the women chew a portion and mix it with the rest. When the fermentation is completed, the liquor is strained off, and is ready for drinking. The aste is said to bear some resemblance to that of ale, but is not *quite so agreeable;* the latter may easily be believed. An intoxicating drink, made in a similar manner from the seeds of certain plants, was met with by Captain Cook in one of the South Sea Islands.

There is a vegetable called the *Ocro*, a species of Hibiscus, which is much prized by old West Indians. The fruit is something like a small cucumber in appearance, and contains a great number of small seeds. It is sometimes boiled and eaten as a vegetable, but more frequently it is used in soup. It is slimy and mucilaginous, and not, I believe, very nutritions. It is, however, a great favourite, and when boiled down with a shin of beef and a few cocos and onions, it makes a "gruel thick and slab," such as the Creoles delight in. It was formerly much used by the female slaves, in consequence of certain properties which it was supposed to possess.

A celebrated dish amongst the early settlers in Honduras was *fingerico*, or *finger and co.* This was a large turtle cooked in the shell. When it was ready for eating, as, on account of its shape, it would not stand upon the table, unless it were propped up like a ship upon the stocks, it was placed upon a flour barrel, the head of which had been knocked in. The partakers of this savoury and delicious fare stood round the barrel, and helped themselves with their fingers from what quarter they listed, for there were various departments in this same fingerico. In one part the entrails were to be found chopped up small, and seasoned with different herbs and spices; in another a sausage meat made of the lean of the animal, also made tasty with numerous condiments; in another the blood; in another the glutinous portion of the fins; and in another the fat, green and transparent as the emerald, reposed in luscious morsels. The whole of this was covered over with browned bread crumbs, and ornamented with the yolks of boobies' eggs, red, green, and white capsicums, and in the middle was stuck the head, having in it two red bird peppers where the eyes had been, and slices of lime in the mouth. The only beverage permitted to be drunk at this "feast of shells" was champagne, which was quaffed, not from golden goblets or sparkling crystal, but rude calabashes plucked from the branches of the adjacent trees. This barbaric epicurism, the offspring of wild bush life, has gradually died away. The last cook who was skilled in the manufacture of fingericos, was an old black woman called Auntie Peggy, who had formerly been a slave. She fell a victim to the cholera, three years ago, and now there is no one left who can make a fingerico. The secret of the extraordinary lustre of Titian's blue died with him, and the art of making fingericos rests in the grave with Auntie Peggy.

A favourite breakfast diet with the creoles of British Honduras, and not by any means, I think, a disagreeable one, is *corn lob*. The name is not euphonious, but the thing signified is nutritious and wholesome. Corn lob is made of Indian corn meal and milk boiled together, until the mixture arrives at the consistency of hasty pudding, when it is eaten sometimes with salt, and sometimes with sugar, or the juice of the sugar cane. The latter is considered, and I believe justly so, to be very fattening. The negroes are very fond of the sugar cane, and if one of those gentry has nothing else to do, which frequently happens, and slumber does not assert its powerful claims, he will usually take out of his long trousers-pocket a piece of that saccharine stalk, and press the juice out of it with his elephantine tusks. The sugar cane is often given to horses, which it not only fattens, but gives to them a smooth and glossy coat.

Speaking of salt, Dr. Letheby says, "the experiments of Boussingault upon cattle have also shown how important is the function of salt in nourishing the system. He found that when cows were deprived of it they got out of condition; the hair became rough, and was matted together, bald patches appeared on their bodies, and the temperament of the animals became cold and phlegmatic." The superiority of the Jamaica salt-pond mutton has been long known. In the neighbourhood of the salt ponds in that island the grass becomes greatly impregnated with saline particles, and the sheep which feed upon it thrive much better than those which are depastured in other parts of the country. The flesh, from the saline quality of the food which they eat, becomes firm and juicy, and the fat in its richness approaches very much to that of venison. The sheep which are fed in the Jamaica mountains, although there are there excellent pastures, are very much inferior. The Indians in Guiana, and also in Central America, use very little salt with their food. Prescott, speaking of the Tlascalans, says, "for more than half a century they had neither cotton, nor cacao, nor salt. Indeed, their taste had been so far affected by long abstinence from these articles, that it required the lapse of several generations after the conquest to reconcile them to the use of salt at their meals." Robinson Crusoe's man Friday at first refused to eat salt to his meat, and it was a long time before he became fully reconciled to it. But Robinson Crusoe is a fiction. In one sense it is so—but there is more truth in that fiction than there is in many books professing to be authentic history. De Foe, the best and truest English prose writer we ever had, knew very well what he was about when he stated Friday's repugnance to salt. He knew most of the voyagers of his day, and doubtless he derived from them the knowledge of the manners and customs of different countries which he exhibits in his works. Salt is supposed to be a vermifuge, and I have read somewhere that there was formerly a law in a particular locality in Germany, which condemned persons who had been convicted of certain crimes to eat their food, for the remainder of their lives, without salt, and that the consequence of this privation was—that they were destroyed by worms. I strongly suspect, however, that this is a fable.

As to the different effects produced upon the human constitution by nitrogenous, or plastic food, and carboniferous, or respiratory food, and the capacity of resisting the invasions of disease which the former gives, whilst the latter leaves the system a prey to the slightest attack, there was a remarkable instance in Belize a few years ago, when the cholera visited that town. The European inhabitants, and those black and coloured people who lived on nourishing animal food, nearly all escaped, whilst the Indians, and Spaniards whose food consisted principally of vegetables, dropped to the ground one after another, as if they had been shot.

Dr. Letheby speaks of the gluttony of the Hottentots, and the large amount of food which the inhabitants of Southern Africa generally are capable of consuming. I had once an African servant who would have been a match for any Hottentot that ever lived. He was the scion of a Royal family which had fallen into trouble. An exile from the kingdom of his Royal father, he did not disdain to earn an honest livelihood by communicating to boots and shoes the blackness and polish of his shining ebon face, and conveying to knives and forks the dazzling lustre of his dark eye. He was called Prince Pindar,—the former name having been conferred upon him, no doubt, in reference to his exalted birth,—the cause of the latter I am ignorant of, unless it was his musical propensities, for he had a habit of constantly leaving off his work, putting both hands to his face, and entertaining himself with a low, confidential, melodious whistle. Be that as it may—

> " * * * Give me leave to speak him,
> And yet with charity—he was a man
> Of an unbounded stomach."

I do not know that like the famous Robbin a Bobbin he could have eaten more than three score men, or could

> "Eat the church and eat the steeple
> Eat the parson and all the people."

but he certainly possessed most magnanimous powers of mastication and digestion. On one occasion I observed him very busy with a huge bucket, and, impelled by curiosity, I examined what it contained. There were several pounds of fat pork, a large quantity of salt and fresh fish, remnants of all kinds of cold meat, scraps of bread and pie crust, two or three dozen plantains, and at least a couple of dozen of monstrous land crabs. Not black crabs, which in Jamaica are considered such dainties, but those horrid ghouls which feed and fatten in graveyards, and cheat the worm of its lawful prey. I asked him what he was going to do with that abominable mess, which he was stirring about most vigorously with the end of a paddle. He said "Me eat um massa for my break-faast." "What all that?" I said. "Hi! dat no much, me eat two time tree time dat for dinnaar." And this voracious brute was a thin, meagre looking creature, like the starved apothecary in Romeo and Juliet.

On the Belize river, about twenty miles from the town of that name, there lives a man, or did a few months ago, whose name is Jones by descent, and Richard by purchase. His longitudinal dimension entitles him to be ranked amongst the sons of Anak, for the crown of his head is at least six feet and a-half above the level of the sea. His general appearance—spare, wiry, and springy, reminds one of Cooper's "Leatherstocking," and when he walks, "long and slouching is his gait," like Peter Bell the potter. He has a massive head, covered with short, crisp, grey hair, a long aquiline nose, hollow cheeks, and a pair of enormous jaws, which open and shut like an engine, devised by some benevolent individual for the capture of unwary trespassers. This man possesses a most miraculous twist, and would have eaten spoonful for spoonful with that famous Welsh giant (from whom, perhaps, he is descended) whom John the Giant Queller, as Fielding calls him, tricked so cleverly in the matter of the hasty pudding. Report attaches some romance to the history of Mr. Jones. It is said that in his youth he met with a disappointment. He had cast an eye of tender regard upon a black but comely daughter of Ham. But the "course of true love never did run smooth," and an "oyster," we are told, "may be crossed in love." The dark fair one scorned the alliance, and declined to become his "Sweet Jenny Jones." Upon this "Poor Richard" took to his bow and his spear and has ever since been a great hunter before the Lord. But, though his heart was seared, he did not think it necessary to neglect one of the first injunctions to man; on the contrary, thinking with Benedict "that the world must be peopled," he became the father of a patriarchal progeny. Full seventy winters have now passed over his head and yet he is as active as ever, and

> "When the hounds are in the cry,
> And the deer sweeps by,"

he sallies forth with his long gun, and his longer legs, in search of savoury meat such as his soul loveth, for the appetite of this worthy man is not the least impaired, but is still as sharp and as keen as the north wind which whistles on Ben Lomond. I have heard of a gourmand, who, on seeing a hungry man make a hearty meal off a leg of mutton, expressed his astonishment and disgust that any person should waste so splendid an appetite upon such food. I have known Mr. Jones polish off, in the handsomest style, a whole shoulder of mutton,—just to wile away the time, until something more plentiful and substantial could be prepared for him. He will eat six pounds of vension steaks, and a score of plantains, as we would eat half-a-dozen oysters, to give him an appetite. When he kills a deer, he sells one leg of it, breakfasts off the other, and dines off the balance. A fearful man Mr. Jones would be to encounter in a lonely place on his return from an unsuccessful forage. The sight of his long, sharp, white teeth, glittering like a row of Turkish scimitars, and the opening and shutting of his mighty jaws, which come together with a click, like "the old oak chest which shut with a spring," would make one's flesh creep, and one's blood curdle. It would be worth while, for the sake of science, to negotiate for the purchase of his cranium, with the appurtenances, after his decease. I have no doubt that for a valuable consideration he might be induced to give a *post obit.* How far such an instrument would bind the executors and administrators, I am not prepared to say—for the head, being *personal* property, would, I presume, vest in them.

I am, &c., R. TEMPLE.

SUBMARINE OPERATIONS.

Sir,—In the Journal of your Society, of the 6th ult., I observe that Mr. John Bethell, in an address to the members at the meeting of the 4th idem, in speaking of diving dresses, stated that "he ought to mention that his diving dresses had been employed in the Bay of Navarino, in recovering guns from the Turkish ships, at a depth of 500 feet, which had been effected without difficulty, and with perfect safety to the diver." An announcement that diving could be carried on at a depth of 500 feet, was of so startling a nature, and, as I believed, so very far beyond any result attained in practice, that I have thought it right to look into the subject, and to collect some facts that might throw light upon it, and the conclusion at which I have arrived upon the evidence now before me is, that Mr. Bethell must have been misinformed as to the depth to which the divers descended in the waters of the Bay of Navarino.

I should not have troubled you with this communication had I not felt that the statement is calculated to mislead those who contemplate operations in deep water. If, indeed, works can be conducted at a depth of 500 feet, "without difficulty, and with perfect safety to the divers," many works, especially those connected with mining operations, could be effected at an enormous saving of expense, as compared with the means now in general use.

That Mr. Bethell must be in error is, in the first place, I think, proved by the fact that there is in the Bay of Navarino no greater depth than 37 fathoms, or 222 feet, and I have ascertained, by reference to the Admiralty, that the Turkish ships referred to by Mr. Bethell were sunk in 18 fathoms, or 108 feet water; and, in the second place, that the pipes used for conveying the air to the divers were made of "many folds of cloth and caoutchouc." Now, if air at a temperature of 60 deg. Faht., be compressed in a pump, so as to resist the pressure due to a column of 500 feet of water, it would, in consequence of its diminished capacity for caloric, be raised to about 340 deg. Faht., and, as caoutchouc melts at about 250 deg. Faht., it is manifest that such a depth could not be attained by pipes composed of the materials described.

I have been occupied for some years in carrying on works in deep water, and have found much difficulty in any depth exceeding 60 feet, and I am unable to find any case on record in which a man has been more than 140 feet under water (and even this I very much doubt), and on this occasion it is said to have been found impossible for him to remain even the few minutes which were necessary for effecting the object desired.

The following extract from a letter dated April 19th, 1856, from my assistant, Mr. J. Folliott Stokes, who superintended the construction of the bridge which carries the Paris and Lyons Railway over the Saone, in the City of Lyons, will be found interesting, as bearing upon this subject. This bridge is of wrought-iron, with two openings of 200 feet each, and consequently having one pier, the foundations of which are composed of cast-iron cylinders sunk under pressure to a depth of 59 feet below water, and you will observe that at this comparatively small depth very serious inconvenience was experienced by the workmen, and the india-rubber pipes and leathers of the pumps were sources of constant delays and difficulties.

"The men find that on coming out of the apparatus under a pressure of $1\frac{1}{2}$ atmospheres, they lose the use of their limbs. This lasts sometimes for an hour, sometimes for three or four days. This breaks up the gangs in a most inconvenient manner. I am inclined to think that the smallness of the air-locks causes a too sudden transition from a great pressure to a much lower one. The men working in the bell suffer very much from the heat; indeed, when the pressure exceeds that due to 50 feet of water, the heat of the compressed air is sufficient to partially melt the india-rubber pipes, and to burn the leathers of the pumps, although they were in water."

Mr. Brunel, who has sunk the large cylinder forming the foundation for the pier at Saltash-bridge, to a depth of 83 feet, let his men work but three hours at a time, and yet found them seriously affected with rheumatism and congestion of the brain, so that one of them died upon the spot.

In putting in the foundations of the two new bridges at Rochester, at a depth of 62 feet, our assistants encountered many similar difficulties, arising from the pressure even at that depth.

To my mind it appears very necessary to advise the greatest caution in trying to execute works at the depth of even 100 feet, and is it not possible that when Mr. Bethell's friends, the "Greek merchants," from whom he says he got his information as to the divers in the Bay of Navarino, gave the depth to which they descended as 500 feet, they may have made a mistake in the first figure, and that the real depth was 100 feet and not 500?

I subjoin copies of some correspondence with Mr. Bethell on this subject, and

I am, &c.,
CHARLES FOX.

Spring Gardens, April 8, 1857.

Spring-gardens, March 23rd., 1857.

Dear Sir,—At the Society of Arts on the 4th. inst., you spoke of some case in which a diver had been 500 feet under water.

I am anxious to get the facts of so interesting a case, having just now a work of difficulty arising from great depth, and I shall therefore feel obliged by your telling me anything you may know of the circumstance you named.

Yours faithfully
C. FOX.

John Bethell, Esq., 8, Parliament-street.

8, Parliament-street, Westminster, March 25th, 1857.

My Dear Sir Charles,—I should have answered your note before, but I was at Birmingham till yesterday.

The deep diving I alluded to was in the Bay of Navarino, on the wrecks of the Turkish fleet sunk there, but as I got my information from the Greek merchants who sent out the apparatus, I cannot warrant the depth so great as stated.

But if the air pipes and pumps are strong enough, I should not be afraid of working in that depth. If the man is kept fully supplied with air of the same density as the water that surrounds his body he would be quite safe.

Yours faithfully
J. BETHELL.

Spring Gardens, March 28th, 1857.

Dear Sir,—I am obliged by your note ot the 25th instant, and must apologise for again troubling you; but the subject is one of so much importance that I shall feel much obliged by your establishing the fact mentioned by you at the Society of Arts, on the 4th instant, and which is reported in the Journal of that Society on the 6th instant, in these words:—"He (Mr. Bethell) ought to mention that his diving dresses had been employed in the Bay of Navarino, in recovering guns from the Turkish ships, at a depth of 500 feet, which had been effected without difficulty and with perfect safety to the diver."

The depth of 500 feet is so far beyond anything I have heard of, or any case I can find on record, that I naturally feel much interest in obtaining all the facts.

Of what material would you construct the pipes for conveying air to such a depth?—Yours, faithfully,

C. FOX.

8, Parliament-street, Westminster, 1st April, 1857.

Dear Sir Charles,—I have not been able to trace the man who told me about the use of my diving apparatus at Navarino. I cannot find out where he is now, but there must have been some mistake, as I find that the apparatus I sent out would have worked securely in 300 feet water, and an apparatus fit for working in 300 feet I could now supply.

The pipes were half-inch in diameter, and made of many folds of cloth and caoutchouc, very strong and fit to resist an internal pressure of 150lb. to the square inch.

I perceive that the plan about to be used by the Americans for raising the Russian ships at Sebastopol, is the same as I patented in 1835. Yours faithfully,

JOHN BETHELL.

NATURE PRINTING.

Sir,—I must beg to intrude a few remarks further on the subject of Mr. Dresser's New System of Nature Printing. In his reply to my observations upon his paper last Wednesday week, he reiterates emphatically the nature of his claim, viz., that of printing from the leaf on stone and metallic surfaces, and so enabling the impressions to be multiplied at pleasure. Now, in the first place, Mr. Dresser has been over and over again superseded in his idea of transferring such objects to such surfaces. And, in the second place, Mr. Dresser should be well aware that he cannot practicably carry out that which he advances as his claim. Mr. Dresser must know full well that, with regard to metallic surfaces especially, his idea is a mere toy-process. He cannot obtain—and I say it with confidence—by such modes as he adopts, a printing surface from which impressions can be printed in a practical manner. With respect to his producing—experimentally, even—impressions of such objects with all their natural excellence, it is a mere matter of words. He does not do it—and he cannot do it.

If Mr. Dresser had paid due attention to my paper upon the subject, he would have remembered that I expressly stated that so-called Nature Printing had its limits, and that care would be required to confine its process within its capabilities. That its capabilities —as practised by the Imperial Printing-office at Vienna, and afterwards by myself—are of a practical nature, there can be no doubt, and the most eminent botanists of the present day have expressed most favourable opinions—provided a proper choice of subjects is made. If the *Hortus siccus* be valuable, the possible and practicable results of Nature Printing (by the Austrian mode) must be doubly so, for its product yields even more than is observable in the *Hortus siccus* itself.

Were Mr. Dresser a practical man, he would have known that the present mode of Nature Printing is the combined result of a multitude of experiments, spreading over a long space of time, and made by an infinite number of hands. However he may please himself with his isolated process, I would beg to inform him, that among the number of previous experiments his own was taken up and rejected. I, myself, with the best possible appliances up to the present time at my command, have tried over and over again to establish both lithographic and typographic processes in connection with the art, but certain requirements for successful and practical results interposed—such requirements being as essential to Mr. Dresser's own experiments for success as to my own. That improvements will ultimately be effected over the Austrian process is certain—but they will emanate from quite a different mode of operation.

Whilst upon the question, I will just enumerate, for the better comprehension of the general reader, results already effected by the Austrian mode. For the short time that the process has been in operation they are somewhat remarkable. Austria has produced three practical results—Henfler's *Mosses*,* Ettinghausen and Pokoring's *Flora of Austria*,* and Frauenfeld's *Seaweeds*;† while, with regard to our own country, *The British Ferns* ‡ have been successfully carried through the press; and already are prepared for publication *The Exotic Ferns*, *The British Mosses*, *The British Seaweeds*, and *The British Lichens.*

It remains for Mr. Dresser to produce works of such a class, and upon such a scale, by the means that he advances. I am, &c.,

HENRY BRADBURY.

Whitefriars, April 3rd, 1857.

ART TREASURES EXHIBITION.

Sir,—As the time for opening the Exhibition of Art-Treasures at Manchester is approaching, permit me, through the medium of your *Journal*, to suggest to the managers the propriety of admitting thereto at a reduced charge—say half-price—the members of the Mechanics' and similar Institutions throughout the kingdom, or at least of those in the vicinity of Manchester. Such a boon would, I believe, be highly appreciated by all to whom it might be extended, and would be productive of much good feeling. The concession, however small, would, moreover, tend to allure some who might not otherwise be disposed to visit the Exhibition, and thus the managers would sustain little or no pecuniary loss by this graceful act of liberality. I am, &c.,

E. B.

Hanley, Staffordshire.

Proceedings of Institutions.

Pimlico.—At the Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution on Monday, the 30th ult., Mr. E. G. Holland, an American gentleman, gave an interesting lecture on "The Romance Writers of the New World." Mr. Holland said that America was not only the country of a varied material enterprise, but of a new and vigorous literature; that the national motto of "going a-head," had evidently now a place in its literature; that it must henceforth abound with the same creativeness, perseverance, and energy, that have hitherto been displayed in other pursuits. The lecturer then spoke of the romance, or story, as the most captivating and successful method of teaching; that the novelist reflects human life both as it is, and as it ought to be. He then spoke of James Fenimore Cooper, as the Columbus, or first explorer of American romance; the first to use those threefold materials of interest, the magnificent scenes of nature, the wild life and poetic legends of the aboriginal races, and the amusements and modes of life common to the early white settlements in his own great state, the state of New York. The lecturer then examined his numerous works, saying that it was the "Spy" that created his fame and made him known to the world; that the "Pioneers," "The Last of the Mohicans," "Pilot," "Prairie," "Red Rover," "Pathfinder," and "Two Admirals," may be taken as his best productions; that Cooper was a man of great decision, strong personal courage, thorough honesty, and seriousness of purpose. Mr. Holland then spoke of Washington Irving, of Longfellow, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Mrs. Stowe, analyzing their works and discriminating the peculiarities of genius in each. The lecture contained analysis, biography, and illustration, in a manner to impart the greatest amount of instruction and amusement, of which the subject is capable. At the conclusion a vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by the chairman and carried unanimously.

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* "Specimen Floræ Cryptogamæ Vallis Arpasch Carpatal Fransibrani:" Conscripsit Ludovicus Eques de Henfler. Seven folio plates. Vienna, 1853.

* "Physiotypia Plantarum Austriacarum: Mit besonderer Berüchsichtigunz der Nervation in den Flächendrganen der Pflanzen." Von Professoren Dr. Constanten von Ettinghausen und Dr. Alois Pokorny. 500 folio plates. Vienna, 1856.

† "Die Algen der Dalmatischen Küste mit hinzufugung der von Kützing im Adriatischen Meere Uberhaupt Aufgefuhrten Arten." Von George Frauenfeld. Twenty-four quarto plates. Vienna, 1855.

‡ "The Ferns of Great Britain and Ireland." By Thomas Moore, F.L.S. Edited by John Lindley, Ph.D., F.R.S. Imperial folio. Fifty-one plates. London, 1853.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Tues. Syro-Egyptian, 7½. Mr. Samuel Sharpe, "On the Identification of the Egyptian and other Towns mentioned in the Bible."
Med. and Chirurg., 8½.
Wed. Society of Arts, 8. Mr. J. W. Papworth, "On Houses as they were, are, and ought to be."
Ethnological, 8½.
Sat. Asiatic, 2.
Medical, 8.

PATENT LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

APPLICATIONS FOR PATENTS AND PROTECTION ALLOWED.

[*From Gazette, April* 3*rd*, 1857.]

Dated 20th December, 1856.

017. Edward Loos, 30, Leicester-square—Improvements in the manufacture of cement, mortar, concrete, and artificial stone.

Dated 22nd December, 1856.

3031. Thomas Roberts and John Dale, Manchester, and John Daniell Pritchard, Warrington—Improvements in the manufacture of oxalate of soda, which improvements are also applicable to the manufacture of oxalic acid.

Dated 27th February, 1857.

579. William Henry Thornthwaite, 121, 122, and 123, Newgate-street—Certain improvements in barometers.

Dated 4th March, 1857.

632. Thomas Brown, Fenchurch-street—Improvements in capstans.

Dated 5th March, 1857.

646. Anthony Ansens, Paris—Improvements in moulds or forms for loaves of sugar.
648. John Woodley and Henry Herbert Swinford—Improvements in sawing machines.
652. William Edward Newton, 66, Chancery-lane—An improved manufacture of tracing cloth. (A communication.)

Dated 19th March, 1857.

769. Joel Williams, Mold, Flint—Improvements in cocks or taps.
771. Samuel Campbell, Newington, Surrey—Improvements in preserving vegetable substances.
773. William Reid, Shettleston, Lanark, N.B.—Improvements in safety apparatus for guarding the mouths of pits, excavations, and other openings.
775. William Gwillim Merrett, 49, Leadenhall-street—An improvement in coats and waistcoats.

Dated 20th March, 1857.

777. Jean Ninck, 37, Brewer-street, Golden-square—Improvements in placing sets, or partial sets, of teeth, gums, and palates on plates.
779. Henry Hall, Spotland, Rochdale, Lancashire—An addition to "throstles" for doffing the bobbins.
781. Charles Weiss and Henry Listef, Huddersfield—Improvements in the means, machinery, or apparatus employed in the finishing of mohair and other textile fabrics.
783. John Parker, East Markham, near Tuxford, Nottingham—Improvements in apparatus for separating corn and other grain and seeds from dust, chaff, and other matters.
785. John P. Jourda, New York—Raising sunken vessels.
787. George William Sayer, Cognac, France—Improved machinery for stopping or retarding railway carriages.
789. William Johnson, 47, Lincoln's-inn-fields—Improvements in steam boilers and furnaces, and in apparatus connected therewith. (A communication.)

Dated 21st March, 1857.

793. William Banks and John Banks, Bolton—Certain improvements in machinery or apparatus to be employed for washing, scouring, or bleaching cotton, linen, and other textile fabrics.
795. George Perrott, Cork—Improvements in horse gearing.
797. Richard Archibald Brooman, 166, Fleet-street—An improved method of driving the spindles of spinning frames. (A communication.)
799. James Edward Cole, New York, U.S.—Improvements in the rig and working the sails of square sail vessels.
801. Robert Mushet, Coleford, Gloucester—Improvements in the manufacture of cast steel.
803. Frederick Shand Hemming, Westminster—Improvements in the mode of treating peat, mixed or not mixed with other vegetable or animal fibrous substances, and in the application of the same to various purposes.
805. Thomas Howard Head and Joseph Wright, Teesdale Iron Works, Stockton-on-Tees—Improvements in casting railway chairs, and in the manufacture of other castings.
807. Henry Dolby and Edwin Thomas Dolby, 56, Regent-street—Improvements in machinery used when printing several colours in succession on the same surface.

Dated 23rd March, 1857.

809. William Heap, Ashton-under-Lyne—Certain improvements in self-acting slide lathes.
811. John Sherar, Aberdeen—Improvements in oil and spirit lamps for the formation of burners obviating shadow.
813. William Mills, Lower Craven-place, Kentish-town—Improvements in the action of upright pianofortes.
815. Thomas Mosdell Smith, Hammersmith, and Cornelius Burke, 27, Earl street, Kensington—Improvements in the preparation of materials applicable to the manufacture of candles.
817. Frederick John Jones, Aldermanbury—An improved buckle or fastening.

Dated 24th March, 1857.

819. Robert Hanham Collyer, M.D., 3, Park-road, Regent's-park—Improved machine for cleaning and purifying wheat and other grain.
821. Jean Alexandre Zibelin, Paris—Improvements in the fabrication of artificial wines, brandy, and vinegar.
823. Alfred Vincent Newton, 66, Chancery-lane—Improvements in carding engines. (A communication.)
825. Thomas Lawes, 77, Chancery-lane—An improved construction of agricultural implements to be used in tilling the land.

Dated 25th March, 1857.

827. William Henry Collins, Birmingham—Improvements in attaching knobs to spindles.
829. John Mickle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Improvements in machinery or apparatus for reaping and mowing.
831. John Hewett, Sheffield—Improvements in sewing machines. (A communication.)
833. Alfred Vincent Newton, 66, Chancery-lane—An improved construction of water meter. (A communication.)
835. John Henderson, Lasswade, Mid-Lothian, N.B.—Improvements in writing instruments.
837. William Somervail, Dunlop, Ayr, N.B.—Improvements in the treatment or preparation of fibrous materials for being spun.
839. Charles Cowper, 20, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane—Improvements in the manufacture of shot and shells for rifled ordnance. (A communication.)
841. Joseph William Wilson, Banbury—Improvements in the cutting tools used for rounding, surfacing, or otherwise operating on wood.

INVENTIONS WITH COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS FILED.

860. George Gilmour, Massachusetts, U.S.—A new and useful contrivance or mechanism for shackling or attaching another anchor to the chain of an anchor to which a vessel may be riding, his said invention being termed by him a "second anchor shackle."—27th March, 1857.
833. Antoine Joseph Quinche, Paris—Improvements in apparatus for counting, registering, and indicating the distance travelled by vehicles.—31st March, 1857.

WEEKLY LIST OF PATENTS SEALED.

April 3rd.

2316. John Hall, junr.
2323. James Allen.
2340. Oglethorpe Wakelin Barratt.
2342. Smith Bottomley and James William Crossley.
2346. Joseph Bunnett.
2351. James Chiesso.
2357. Thomas Dugdale, junr.
2436. John Smith.
2445. Joseph George.
2464. Charles Briqueler.
2492. John Walley.
2764. Samuel Russell.
64. Julius Goodman, Abraham Myers, and Louis Goodman.
71. Thomas Ball and John Wilkins.
114. Sir James Murray, Knt. and M.D.
148. Robert Reeves and John Reeves.
157. Edwin Clark.
159. Edwin Clark.
175. Henry Chamberlin, junr.
193. John Rubery.
194. Gustave Perez di Termini.
221. Henry Bessemer.
259. Henry Chamberlin, junr.
353. John Henry Johnson.
364. William Wilkens.

April 7th.

2354. William Bradford.
2356. Daniel Foxwell.
2364. Thomas King.
2370. John Shaw and Edwin Shaw.
2372. James Saul Hendy.
2375. Christopher Richard Norris Palmer.
2379. John Mc Innes.
2392. George Elliot.
2394. William and Jacob Todd.
2398. John Roscow.
2432. George Morton.
2451. Sir Francis Chas. Knowles.
2617. Rd. Archibald Brooman.
2751. Rd. Archibald Brooman.
3080. Thomas Wilks Lord.
232. Edward Highton.

Patents on which the Stamp Duty of £50 has been Paid.

March 30*th.*

742. William Edward Newton.
743. Alfred Vincent Newton.
827. John Platt.

March 31*st.*

757. Thomas Scott.
771. Bernhard Samuelson.
786. George Francis Wilson and James Monroe Whiting.

April 1*st.*

758. James Forsyth.
762. William Gossage.
781. William Edward Newton.
868. Giuseppe Devincenzi.

April 2*nd.*

796. Emile Dupont.

April 3*rd.*

766. James Higgin.
792. Joseph Nash.
800. Julian Bernard.
802. John Henry Johnson.
818. John Henry Johnson.

April 4*th.*

782. James Howden.
789. James Smith.
801. James Worrall, junr.